

**Closing Remarks by the Acting Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of Fiji  
Hon. Mr. Justice Kamal Kumar  
at the Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference  
on Climate Change Adjudication (Trends and Impacts)  
7-8 October 2019 – Nadi, Fiji**

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Honourable Chief Justices from various Jurisdictions  
Honourable Judges  
Chief Magistrates  
Magistrates  
Ms Catherine Marsh, the Assistant General Counsel,  
Asian Development Bank  
Mr. Andrew Raine, Head, Environmental Law Unit, UNEP  
Resource Persons  
Members of the Secretariat  
Ladies and Gentlemen

We have reached the end of the two (2) day Conference on Climate Change Adjudication. I once again thank you for your presence at the Conference which was organised in partnership with Asian Development Bank and United Nations Environment Programme.

Even though we wish, we could have stayed bit longer this Conference has to come to an end like any other Conference and Workshop. I also understand we all have heavy commitments and obligations ahead of us.

It has been a pleasure and I am sure you all agree that topics covered during the Conference had been quite stimulating and thought provoking with speakers/presenters from almost all walks of life being Judicial Officers, Lawyers, Environment/Climate Change experts, representatives from NGOs, academics, film makers and movie actresses.

By having speakers/presenters from different walks of life we are given an opportunity to understand how they are affected by climate change and what they are doing to ensure that, we have a safe and healthy environment.

We have heard very able and dynamic presenters on actions being undertaken by their countries in controlling climate change; impact of climate change on vulnerable groups, roles and responsibilities of judicial officers on issues relating to climate change.

I am sure we all have benefitted from the presentations made at this Conference in addition to building networks and making new friends.

I have said during my welcome address, that 70% to 80% success of the Conference depended on your contributions and participation. Thank you for your contribution and sharing your experience and expertise on climate change.

It is evident that we cannot ignore or turn a blind eye to the reality. The fact that 200 countries have signed Paris Agreement shows how concerned they are about the impacts of climate change if the current trend continues.

I am sure, you will agree that the presentations have been quite interesting and thought provoking. I sincerely acknowledge and thank ADB and UNEP for liaising and arranging with the resource persons to make presentations.

I hope that as we leave this Conference we will be equipped with knowledge and information on our roles/responsibilities in dealing with climate change issues and ensure that our actions do not in any way harm the environment in such a way that our children and grandchildren hold us responsible for giving them an environment which is unclean, unhealthy and unsafe for them to live on.

I must acknowledge and thank the following persons without whom this Conference would not have been a success:

- (i) The Resource Persons for your valuable presentations.
- (ii) Messrs. Andrew Raine, Sefanaia Nawadra and Thomas Adam Hodge from United Nations Environment Programme.

- (iii) Ms Irum Ahsan and her team including Celeste Saniel-Gois, Francesse Joy Cordon-Navarro, Sonia Chand Sandhu, Briony Eales and Maria Cecilia Sicangco from Asian Development Bank.
- (iv) Justice Chandra, Resident Justice of Appeal; Chief Registrar of Supreme Court of Fiji, Mr. Yohan Liyanage; Zarina Bi; Ivamere and their team.
- (v) Deputy Registrar (West) of High Court Lautoka and his team for organising the welcome ceremony.
- (vi) Fiji Police Force for escorting the foreign delegates from the Airport to the Hotel and providing PPOs/security during the Conference. Not forgetting the Police Jazz Band that will entertain you during Gala Dinner tonight. Please pass my sincere gratitude to the Commissioner of Police.
- (vii) Salen Sharma from Judicial Department and Seremaia Seru from Ministry of Economy for organising the transport to and from Nadi Airport and during the Conference. Job well done.
- (viii) All the Liaison Officers and Ushers.
- (ix) Ana Turaga from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Protocol Officers. Please pass my thanks to your Officers and Ministry of Tourism.
- (x) Amlesh Kumar and Susana together with Hotel Staff for looking after us during our stay here and arranging the Hotel premises for the Conference.
- (xi) IT Personnel – Ravinesh, Nitesh, Steven and Venina – thank you.
- (xii) Anyone else who have contributed to the success of this Conference in any form or manner.

Finally once again thank you for attending the Conference. All those who are leaving today and tomorrow, I wish you a pleasant and safe journey back home. Those who are staying back for few days, wish you a pleasant stay in Fiji and safe return home.

Thank you all and May God bless each one of you.

Kamal Kumar  
**Acting Chief Justice**